

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02
SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 H-01 PRS-01 PA-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 /073 W
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R 221030Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4236
INFO USMISSIONGENEVA
AMCONSUL ZURICH
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 1726

GENEVA FOR CONSUL

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SZ
SUBJ: SWISS GOVT WILL NOT PERMIT FOREIGNERS TO VOTE BY MAIL IN
THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL ELECTIONS

REF: BERN 1717

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF SWISS FEDERAL
POLITICAL DEPT (FONMIN) CIRCULAR NOTE PA 15.21.3 OF
APR 18, 1977 ON SUBJECT OF VOTING BY FOREIGNERS RESIDENT
IN SWITZERLAND.

"THE FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPT PRESENTS ITS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN
SWITZERLAND AND HAS THE HONOR TO CALL THEIR
ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES.

IT HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE
FEDERAL AUTHORITIES THAT ON SEVERAL
RECENT OCCASIONS FOREIGNERS RESIDING
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IN SWITZERLAND HAVE, ON THE TERRITORY OF THE CONFEDERATION,
PARTICIPATED IN THE VOTING THAT WAS TAKING PLACE IN THEIR COUNTRY
OF ORIGIN, OFTEN WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
OR INTERESTED CONSULAR POSTS.

THE DEPT WISHES TO RECALL THAT, ACCORDING TO ESTABLISHED PRACTICE
SWITZERLAND DOES NOT PERMIT VOTING OR PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

THAT ARE ORGANIZED IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY ON ITS TERRITORY.
IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, NO COUNTRY IS ASKED TO TOLERATE SUCH VOTING
PROCEDURES ON ITS OWN SOIL. SWITZERLAND HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED
ALIENS PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THEIR COUNTRY
OF ORIGIN INCOMPATIBLE WITH ITS SOVEREIGNTY, WHETHER VOTING TAKES
PLACE AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION OR AT THE CONSULAR
POST, BY MAIL OR BY PROXY OR BY SIGNING REFERENDUM QUESTIONS.
SUCH ACTIVITIES ASSUME THE CHARACTER OF POLITICAL ACTS EFFECTED
ON FOREIGN TERRITORY. THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES DO NOT PERMIT
ACTS OF THIS NATURE TO BE EXERCISED ON SWISS TERRITORY.

FOR THESE REASONS, IT IS AGREED TO RECALL THAT THE FEDERAL LAW
ON THE POLITICAL RIGHTS OF SWISS ABROAD, WHICH WENT INTO
EFFECT 1 JAN 1977, PROVIDES, THAT SWISS
ABROAD CANNOT EXERCISE THEIR POLITICAL RIGHTS EXCEPT IN
SWITZERLAND.

THE DEPT WILL BE GRATEFUL TO THE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN SWITZERLAND
FOR THE ATTENTION THEY WILL WISH TO GIVE TO THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS.

THE DEPT TAKES THIS OCCASION..."

2. IN BERN 1717, THREE WORDS WERE INADVERTENTLY
OMITTED FROM THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA (TWL)(C).
THIS SENTENCE SHOULD READ "WE HAVE FOUND NO
SPECIFIC PROHIBITION IN SWISS STATUTES AGAINST
VOTING BY FOREIGNERS IN SWITZERLAND BY MAIL."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INSTRUCTIONS, VOTING, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, FOREIGN WORKERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770141-0599
Format: TEL
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770431/aaaaazf.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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